

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07648 311932Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----311942Z 009694 /44

P R 311535Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8069
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7648

EXDIS

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINT SOPN SHUM SHUL UR
SUBJECT: VLADIMIR SLEPAK DISCUSSES EMBASSY POLICY ON DISSIDENT
CONTACTS WITH NY TIMES CORRESPONDENT SHIPLER AT SLEPAK/
BURRELL WEDDING

REF: MOSCOW 3590, MOSCOW 6522, MOSCOW 7519, STATE 122482

1. ELAINE BURRELL AND ALEKSANDR SLEPAK WERE MARRIED WITHOUT
INCIDENT AT MOSCOW'S CENTRAL WEDDING PALACE MAY 31. WEDDING
PARTY OF APPROXIMATELY 15 PEOPLE WAS HANDLED IN NORMAL ASSEMBLY-
LINE FASHION AND NO POLICE PRESENCE WAS VISIBLE.

2. CONSOFF WHO ATTENDED WEDDING AT MS BURRELL'S
REQUEST HEARD CONVERSATION BETWEEN VLADIMIR SLEPAK AND NEW YORK
TIMES CORRESPONDENT DAVID SHIPLER ABOUT EMBASSY'S POLICY ON
CONTACT WITH SOVIET DISSIDENTS. SLEPAK NOTED THAT EMBASSY
OFFICERS, INCLUDING PRESEL, HAD NOT SEEN HIM RECENTLY (I.E.
NOT SINCE SLEPAK HAD BEEN DENIED ADMISSION TO PRESEL'S APARTMENT),
ALTHOUGH HE AND PRESEL TALK OFTEN BY TELEPHONE. SLEPAK
FURTHER STATED THAT PRESEL HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE AMBASSADOR
HAD INSTRUCTED PRESEL NOT TO VISIT HIM. (PRESEL HAS NEVER TOLD
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SLEPAK OF ANY AMBASSADORIAL OR OTHER PROHIBITION ON CONTACTS).
WHEN SHIPLER ASKED IF THIS POLICY APPLIED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS OTHER
THAN PRESEL, SLEPAK REPLIED THAT NO OTHER EMBASSY OFFICER HAD
VISITED HIM. SHIPLER RHETORICALLY ASKED "WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR
CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY?" AND INDICATED TO SLEPAK
THAT HE SAW A "STORY" IN SUPPOSED CONTRAST BETWEEN EMBASSY
POLICY ON DISSIDENT CONTACTS AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN

RIGHTS POLICY.

3. IN VIEW OF SHIPLER'S CONVERSATION WITH SLEPAK AND WALLACE'S RECENT DIGGING ON SIMILAR STORY, (REFTELS) IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT SOME VARIANT OF STORY WILL SOON BE PUBLISHED. EMBASSY, OF COURSE, CONTINUES TO CLOSELY MONITOR DISSIDENT AFFAIRS, IN PART THROUGH OCCASIONAL MEETINGS BETWEEN EMBASSY OFFICERS AND SOVIET DISSIDENTS, ALTHOUGH PRESEL'S ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN LIMITED BECAUSE OF CONTINUING HARASSMENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM. IF SHIPLER INQUIRES RE SUBSTANCE OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH SLEPAK, WE INTEND TO REPLY ALONG LINES PREVIOUSLY USED WITH WALLACE OF UPI AND GUIDANCE PROVIDED STATE REFTEL.
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Message Attributes

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